



# FCAV Strategic Plan 2009 - 2012

## **The FCAV Vision**

***For all children in care to be cherished, connected and treated with compassion.***

## **The FCAV Mission**

***To strengthen foster families and enhance the wellbeing of the children in their care.***

### **FCAV Statement of Purposes**

- ❖ To advance a compassionate and effective care system that ensures the nurturing and protection of foster children; supports the needs of foster families and acknowledges the role of the biological family.
- ❖ To represent the needs of children/ young people living in foster care as voiced by their foster carer.
- ❖ To promote a foster care system in which foster carers and their families can effectively help, nurture and care for foster children.
- ❖ To promote a foster care system that is safe for the foster children and foster families.

FCAV seeks to achieve these purposes by (but are not limited to):

- ❖ Providing and facilitating information sharing, offering advice and support, and encouraging support networks for the foster carers;
- ❖ Research, collection and dissemination of information on or relating to foster care for carers, agencies, DHS and other interested parties;
- ❖ Promoting and encouraging foster carers and the recognition of the important role they and their families play in the foster care community;
- ❖ Assisting all participants in the care system to develop policies, practices and guidelines to enhance the cultural connectedness, nurturing and protection of the foster children and that supports the needs of the foster families;
- ❖ Promoting and ensuring the facilitation of effective training and on-going development for foster carers

### **Strategic Intent**

The FCAV and the idea of offering support to strengthen foster care families was conceived by an amazing group of foster carers. Through their passion and with the support of many in the sector, FCAV was incorporated in May 1992. Enhanced Government funding was secured for the organisation in 2004.

The development of the 2009 – 2012 Strategic Plan is a vital step forward for FCAV. In developing the Strategic Plan the Committee wants to see:

- ❖ An engaged and fully supported membership base;
- ❖ An increased awareness of issues facing young Indigenous people in the care system;
- ❖ Comprehensive Resource Centre, including a vibrant and active website;
- ❖ Systemic advocacy based on foster carers views;
- ❖ Strong partnerships with DHS, CSO's, The Centre for Excellence, Post Placement Support Services, The Mirabel Foundation, CREATE and The Office of Child Safety Commissioner;
- ❖ Secure and sustainable funding;
- ❖ Well resourced staff, highly skilled to undertake the activities of the organisation;

In order to get FCAV to achieve this vision, the following four strategic priorities have been agreed upon:

## **Strategic Priority 1      Support Services**

To deliver relevant, quality support services to foster carers across the State:

- ❖ Improve the level of information and resources to foster carers including ensuring it is relevant to Indigenous foster carers and non-Indigenous foster carers caring for Indigenous young people;
- ❖ Redevelop the website;
- ❖ Improve the quality and content of the newsletter;
- ❖ Secure ongoing funding for the Help Line and continue to enhance the support offered to foster carers;
- ❖ Provide individual support, advocacy and referral on complex issues;
- ❖ Advocate for and ensure the offer of training for foster carers;
- ❖ Determine the role and function of FCAV in terms of support groups and networks;

## **Strategic Priority 2      Policy and Advocacy**

To contribute to the continuing development of a service system that best meets the needs and interests of children/ young people in foster care:

- ❖ Develop policy positions and actively promote these widely;
- ❖ Work with key agencies and peak bodies in advocacy for system improvement and required reform;
- ❖ Collect and report on data from foster carers re: emerging trends/ issues that will inform policy and service system improvement;
- ❖ Represent the voice of children, young people and foster carers in a range of key stakeholder forums and advisory groups;

## **Strategic Priority 3      Connections with Foster Carers and Key Stakeholders**

To strengthen and grow our connection with foster carers and key stakeholders across the State:

- ❖ Promote understanding by foster carers of FCAV;
- ❖ Hold an annual State-wide Carers Conference;
- ❖ Gather information on the needs of foster carers to feed into policy development and advocacy;
- ❖ Undertake regional visits;
- ❖ Continue to build and strengthen relationships with CSO's;
- ❖ Continue to build relationships with government and key groups in the foster care sector (The Centre, Create, Mirabel, PPSS and VACCA);

## **Strategic Priority 4      Organisation Governance and Capacity**

To grow FCAV's capacity to ensure foster carers are fully supported and have their voice heard through improved business and organisational processes:

- ❖ Review and update organisational roles and responsibilities;
- ❖ Review financial delegations and establish a system for periodic review of policy and procedure;
- ❖ Strengthen governance capacity;
- ❖ Grow members' confidence in AGM and voting arrangements;
- ❖ Maximise volunteer contribution of members through support networks including pro bono contributions;
- ❖ Increasing independent funding and government investment – e.g. apply for tender opportunities;
- ❖ Ensure office infrastructure is well resourced to meet the needs of organisation;

NB - For the purposes of this document the term "foster carer" means an individual, couple or family, accredited by a CSO to provide foster care. It also includes permanent carers who care for a child or children who were originally placed with this family as a foster care placement (permanent care conversion).

This definition does not include statutory or non-statutory Kinship carers, adoptive parents or mentors. It also does not include permanent carers who have not been foster carers and who are caring for children who were not originally placed with them via the foster care system.